The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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WORKERS SUPPORT WAR PLANS OF U.S.

Minneapolis, Sept. 15.—At its first conference, held in this city, the recently-organized American alliance for labor and democracy renewed its loyalty pledged to America and this nation's democratic ideals in the present war.

The conference consisted of trade unionists, socialists and sympathizers. A call was issued to all men and women of the country to join or form branches of the alliance so that "every atom of strength and every ounce of resources may be placed at the disposal of the government."

In the resolution on war aims, it was declared that:

"'The position of America in this war is so clearly avowed that no man can be excused for mistaking it. She seeks no material profit nor aggrandizement of any kind. She is fighting for no advantage or selfish object of her own, but for the liberations of peoples everywhere from the aggressions of autocratic force.'

"We, the men and women of the trade union, the socialist movements of America, organized into the American alliance for labor and democracy, in submitting this record to our fellow citizens, assert that in all history no government has ever stated its aims on entering a war or while such a war was being fought with anything approaching the definiteness, clarity and candor revealed by these utterances. We assert, moreover, that in all essential particulars, the aims thus set forth are entirely consistent with the great ideals of democracy and internationalism for which the American labor movement has always stood and which are fundamental to its being.

"We rejoice at the fact that we are thus solemnly committed to the principle of the complete autonomy and independence of nations. Only upon the basis of this generous nationalism can anything like a great and worthy internationalism be established."

The outstanding provisions in the conference's declaration of priciples included:

Suppression of disloyalists and pro-German propagandists.

Solidification of labor behind the government.

Conscription of wealth as well as men.

Heavy taxes on incomes, excess profits and land values.

Government control of industries in case of labor disputes.

Action against speculative interests which enhance prices of the necessaries of life.

Insurance for soldiers and sailors.

Equal suffrage.

Indorsement of President Wilson's decision not to permit the war to be made an excuse for lowering labor standards.

Declaration that wage earners must have a voice in determining conditions under which they give service, must be represented in councils conducting the war and at peace negotiations.

A committee was appointed to extend encouragement to new Russia. It is composed of Samuel Gompers, Frank P. Walsh, John Spargo, James Duncan and Charles Edward Russell. The latter two were members of the American mission to Russia.

The alliance elected the following officers: President, Samuel Gompers; secretary, Frank Morrison; treasurer, J. G. Phelps Stokes; vice presidents, W. B. Gaylord, James Duncan and Gertrude B. Fuller.

GRANTED AN ADVANCE.

Toronto, Canada, Sept. 15.—The board of conciliation having under consideration the dispute between the street car men's union and the company over a demand for an advance of 10 cents an hour has rendered its decision. The finding grants the men six cents an hour increase and runs for two years, dating back to June 16. The rate fixed for motormen, conductors, motor and track repairmen is 30 cents for the first six months, 32 for the second six months, 35 for the second year and 37 for the third and subsequent years. Adding the two cents previously secured makes a total advance inside of a year of nine cents per hour.

VOTING ON A STRIKE.

Chicago, Sept. 15.—Members of the Lake Seamen's union are voting on a proposition to strike. The principal grievance is that the shipowners have refused to grant the agreement made between Atlantic and Gulf shipowners and their seamen, which, if extended to lake vessels, would better the working conditions of the men. An increase in wages also is demanded from $77.50 to $90 a month for able seamen and from $47.50 to $60 for ordinary seamen.

WANT 20 PER CENT MORE.

New Orleans, La., Sept. 15.—Four hundred white and negro screwmen have asked for an advance of 20 per cent when the new contracts are signed with stevedores and steamship agents. The present contract expires September 15, as does also the longshoremen. The latter have also asked for a 25 per cent advance.

RAILROAD CLERKS OUT.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 15.—A strike of 1,500 members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks completely tied up freight on the Seaboard Air Line railroad in this city, Raleigh and Hamlet, N. C.; Cardel, Ga.; Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla. The men asked an eight-hour day and time and a half for overtime.

POSTAL CLERKS MEET.

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 15.—At the biennial convention of the National Federation of Postal Clerks, affiliated with the A. F. of L., Gilbert E. Hyatt, of Minneapolis, was elected president, and will be stationed in Washington. Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty was re-elected and Washington was selected as the 1919 convention city.

CITY FIREMEN ORGANIZE.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 15.—The city firemen have completed an organization and will apply to the American Federation of Labor for a charter. Nearly every fireman in the city's employ has signed the application.

NEW WAITERS' UNION.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Sept. 15.—A new union has been formed here composed of waiters, waitresses and cooks, chartered by the International Alliance of Hotel and Restaurant Employes.

NEW SCALE ENFORCED.

Oakland, Cal., Sept. 15.—Cement Workers' union has put into force a new scale which calls for $4.50 a day, an advance of 50 cents over the old rates.

FOR BROADER DEMOCRACY.

New York, Sept. 15.—The Tribune has this to say in commenting on the action of the recent conventions of the state federation of albor and the suffragists:

"The interchange of communications between the conventions of the suffragists at Saratoga and the New York state federation of labor at Jamestown is evidence of a valuable co-operation in the battle for broader democracy. The one group seeks a political democracy still unachieved completely in this state because of a sex discrimination. The other seeks a more complete industrial or economic democracy than it has yet won. The struggle, as the suffragists aptly said, is the same from different aspects. Just as the struggle of the suffragists and organized labor is essentially the same, their adversaries are the same. The politicians who object to woman suffrage chiefly because it would overturn conditions now nicely adjusted for their advantage are of the same element in the community as the financial or industrial interests which see in the spread of economic democracy only an overturning of the status quo which would produce harm to themselves. The politicians and many business interests have long made common cause, frequently without regard to political lines. It is only right and proper that labor and the suffragists should unite in a fight which inevitably must when won advance the desires of both."

SUCCESSFUL RESULT.

London, Ontario, Sept. 15.—The strike of the brass moulders in the Empire Brass company's plant, which was caused by the discharge of female coremakers who were replaced by women workers at a far lower rate of wages, has ended in a victory for the union. The attempt of the company to take advantage of wartime conditions was a thinly concealed effort to assume the attitude that if it became necessary owing to a shortage of labor at any time it would not oppose the employment of women, if they were given equal pay with men for the amount of work turned out, but the management refused to consider the proposition, with the result that the shop was tied up effectively. The strike lasted four weeks and ended when the company agreed to put men back on the work and lay off the women who were being used to reduce the wage rate.

SAYS WAGES WILL RISE.

New York, Sept. 15.—Prof. Roswell C. McCrea, of the economics department of Columbia University, in a paper filed in the matter of the application of 28 electric companies for an increase in fares, declares that wages in the United States are certain to go higher. His conclusions, based on an investigation of conditions in 1,600 industries in New York state, are:

1—Street railway wages rather lower than in other enterprises requiring similar skill.

2—A similar upward trend of wage costs in various fields of similar labor skill.

3—A fall in purchasing power of money wages as compared with the costs of subsistence, and

4—An indication of increased labor costs in the future.

MEAT PACKERS STRIKE.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 15.—Three thousand employes of the Cudahy Packing company are on strike for a wage increase, resulting in an almost complete tie-up of the plant. More than 75 per cent of the labor force is also involved. A charge was made that the action of the men was due to German agitators. Federal agents investigated the facts causing the walkout of the men, but were unable to verify the charges.

Six hundred employes of Armour company and 400 of the Morris company have also struck.

Peet Brothers Soap company has also been closed. Government mediators are on the ground.

Omaha, Nebr., Sept. 15.—About 5,000 employes of the packing plants of the Armour, Swift and Cudahy companies struck for an increase of 5 per cent an hour. An offer of two and one-half cents was made, but not accepted. A settlement was reached through the efforts of Government Mediator Frederick L. Frieck, the terms of settlement being signed by the parties at interest and the men returned to work.

NEW CARPENTERS' UNIONS.

Cobourg, Ontario, Sept. 15.—A new local of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, to be known as No. 1710, has been organized and includes nearly all the available carpenters in the city. The contractors have signed up to pay 55 cents an hour, with time and a half for overtime and double pay for Sundays and holidays.

Peterboro, Ontario, Sept. 15.—As the result of the formation of a new union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners the minimum wage has been increased from 40 to 50 cents an hour and working hours have been reduced from ten to nine, and working conditions materially improved.

WANT CONCILIATION.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 15.—Secretary George Martin of the Seamen's union has served notice on the Lake Carriers' association that unless it will agree to a meeting for conciliation before October 1 a strike of the Seamen's union will be called. Union officials claim 25,000 men would be affected if a strike results. They are demanding $85 a month instead of $72 now being paid and a mimum of $60 for deckhands.

FREIGHT HANDLERS OUT.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 15.—The freight departments of the Missouri Pacific, the Kansas and Texas and the Rock Island railroads are all badly crippled as the result of a strike of the freight handlers. The men asked for more wages and a lessening of hours, being refused they ceased work.

HAIRCUT COMES HIGH.

Livingston, Mon., Sept. 15.—The barbers are charging 50 cents for a hair cut, 50 cents for massage, 50 cents and $1 for shampoo, 25 cents for shave, and 15 to 25 cents for tonics. Journeymen receive $21 per week, and 60 per cent over $35 of their receipts. Hours from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. and 9 p. m. Saturdays.

FORTY-FOUR HOUR WEEK.

New Westminster, B. C., Sept. 15.—The 44-hour week, increased wages and other improved conditions went into effect on September 1 in all machine shops, the result of demands made by the Machinists' union, which includes practically all mechanics employed at that trade.

Triumphant Progressive Democracy

San Francisco, Sept. 15.—Editor James W. Mullen of the Labor Clarion powerfully, brilliantly and lucidly pictures the future of that progressive democracy we are all hoping and longing for in the following article:

"As one scans the pages of history and reads of the struggles of the people of all ages to throw off the shackle that bound them to heartless masters it is, indeed, pleasant to note the success that is crowning the efforts of the people of today to rid themselves of government by others and to establish their right to steer their own course and shape their own ends.

"Throughout the entire world the men and women of common clay are asserting themselves in a manner that is sending the chill of fear through the frames of those who have held high station and cruelly ridden upon the backs of their humble brothers. There is not a corner of the world which has not been stirred to some extent by the leaven of democracy during the past trying year. Europe, Asia and Africa are full of open advocates of the rights of humanity who have but little fear of the powerful autocrats who formerly compelled submission to their wills, while the western hemisphere, always strongly democratic, is adopting measures calculated to strengthen the grip of the people upon governmental institutions in order that they may more readily be made to serve the purpose for which they were instituted—that of meeting the needs of civilized humankind, rather than that of making life more luxurious and easy for the favored few.

"Truly the trend of the times, the world over, presages the end of autocratic rule over the lives of men. And in this powerful and successful effort at democratizing the world the great uncounted millions of those who earn their bread in the sweat of their brows, and who have had the intelligence and foresight to weld themselves together in the modern labor movement, have played no inconspicuous part. Their efforts have been fruitful in the past, and every indication is that the immediate future will find their struggles of even greater worth in the battle of man against master, and that the next few years will mark an epoch in the world's history, recording a progress for humanity unequaled in all the annals of time. Crowned heads are falling into the basket of democracy at a rapid rate and the momentum gained bids fair to carry the work forward until arrogant autocracy has been thoroughly humbled and made to do its share of the world's necessary labor.

"Taking into account the frailties, limitations, and imperfections of humanity he would, indeed, be an optimist who entertained the hope that equal and exact justice would be the early end of such a struggle. In spite of the pitfalls and dangers that lie in the path of progress, these are, nevertheless, glorious days for the lovers of justice, because they do hold out the hope that when the slaughter that is now spreading anguish and sorrow throughout the world shall have been brought to an end, the great masses of oppressed people who now have little or no control over their manner of life will find themselves in a position where they can, in large measure, exercise influence over the conditions which shape their mode of living. And this, while not all that properly could be asked for, is, indeed, progress that may well fill the world with gladness over such a prospect.

"The things in this world worth having are usually hard to get. If, then, we are called upon to make sacrifices in order to gain liberty, we should do so without unusual complaint, and every man should be willing to do his part toward ushering into the world the right of all to an equal voice in governmental affairs. The laggard and the coward, the lazy and the selfish, the helpless and the hopeless we have always had with us, but in spite of their presence the red-blooded men of the world have gone on from one triumph to another in the interest of humanity. Every age and every clime has contributed its quota of unselfish souls willing to make the final sacrifice that the world might be made a better place in which to live. The greatest struggle the world has ever known is now going on in Europe, and the issue between the contending factions is mainly the supremacy of autocracy or democracy, whether the few shall rule the many or the many rule themselves, and men of the modern world are making sacrifices greater than any ever made by the ancients for the same cause, though their prospects for success are also much greater.

"When a little more than three years ago a war-mad despot started to deal out death and despair, things looked black for democracy because it seemed to point to the hand of autocracy as powerful enough to compel submission to its dictates, but just as many a dark and cloudy morning turns out a bright and sunshiny day, so have the clouds that at the beginning of this great world war obscured from view the golden rays of liberty passed away, and now there is in sight a vision that the most optimistic in their wildest flights of fancy dared not contemplate. The world now looks brighter for the people and darker for the despots, because in the distance, beyond the awful sacrifices that must be made in the name of freedom, there stands out in bold relief the figure of democracy victorious, triumphant, dominant.

"If this shall be the result, and all indications seem to point in that direction, then the sorrows and pains, miseries and sufferings of the champions of democracy shall not have been in vain. The goal gained will compensate for the terrible price paid."

"LOYALTY" LEAGUE WANTS TO EXPLAIN

Washington, Sept. 15.—Representatives of the Bisbee (Ariz.) "Loyalty" league breezed into the offices of the American Federation of Labor this week to "explain the necessity" for deporting 1,100 men from Bisbee to Columbus, N. M., on July 12 last.

The delegation wanted to see President Gompers, who was out of the city. The "patriots" then called on Secretary Frank Morrison.

When the visitors announced their mission, the trade unionist took the floor. He declared that no law-abiding citizen would accept any excuse for this outrage; that the American Federation of Labor was not in sympathy with the I. W. W., but that the violation of constitutional guarantees and the unheard-of procedure in Bisbee was a shock to every believer in law and regularity. This, declared Morrison, was a principle separate and apart from thhe I. W. W. excuse of the "Loyalty" league, for its drastic and illegal action, which denied men the law's protection, and which, together with anti-union employers, make the I. W. W. possible.

The visitors quickly departed from this unsympathetic atmosphere and headed for the war department, where they are trying to interest government officials in maintaining top prices for copper.

Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 15.—Attorney General Jones is called upon by Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, to take action in the case of the Phelps-Dodge copper corporation taking charge of the telegraph offices at Douglas and Bisbee, this state, when 1,100 miners were deported, last July, and stopping telegrams.

SHORTENING THE HOURS.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 15.—The officials of the Timber Workers' union assert that fully 85 per cent of the employes of the 21 mills and the woodworking establishments in Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, and Nillhurst who are working are members of the union. The 10-hour mills are finding it difficult to secure men to work the long hours.

One feature that promises added strength to the Timber Workers' union and will have a deciding influence in further establishing the eight-hour day in the lumbering industry is the fact that large numbers of Japanese workers are applying for membership in the union. The decision of the union to admit the Japanese will deprive the 10-hour mills of a strong ally, as heretofore they have depended largely on the Nipponese laborers to break strikes.

DENOUNCES CHILD LABOR.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 15.—Child labor on farms is being severely denounced by those who have been observing its results in this state. One of the strongest opponents is Superintendent of Public Schools Thomas S. Weaver of this city. His condemnation is recorded in the following language:

"Not a tenth or even a twentieth of the boys are fit for farm work, any way," he said. "They're just little kids. It's ridiculous to put them to that kind of work. Just now it's up to the state labor department. But when school opens we'll see to it that they return. We'll get them back if we have to send a man out to every tobacco farm."

GRIEVANCE SUSTAINED.

Hazelton, Pa., Sept. 15.—A "narrow breast" is not a "gangway" in anthracite parlance and operators must adhere to the generally accepted terms mentioned in the wage sheets. This was the decision of Charles P. Neill, umpire of the conciliation board, in sustaining a grievance of the miners at the Westmoreland colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal company in the Wyoming district, who asserted that they were paid for "narrow breast" work at $1.25 a yard, when in reality they were driving "gangways" on which the schedule calls for $3.24 a yard.

ORGANIZING SHIPYARDS.

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 15.—With the completion of the organization campaign now in full force on Poplar Island, New Westminster and Coquitalam practically every shipyard in British Columbia will have been unionized. The engineers employed in the shipyards are 100 per cent organized and are actively assisting in the work of bringing the other employes into line.

ADVANCE GRANTED.

Passaic, N. J., Sept. 15.—Anticipating a demand for more wages, the textile mills decided on an advance to their employes, numbering 15,000. It is claimed that the increase will reach $1,000,000 and becomes effective immediately.

STRIKE FOR 20 PER CENT.

Newmarket, N. H., Sept. 15.—A strike is on at the cotton and silk mills of the Newmarket Manufacturing company, the 1,000 operatives having ceased work. A demand was made for an advance of 20 per cent which was refused.

CONSCRIPT WEALTH AS WELL AS MEN

Fargo, N. D., Sept. 15.—In commenting on the result of the recent Minneapolis conference, the Courier-News says:

"The American alliance for labor and democracy in its declaration of principles adopted at the conclusion of the big conference in Minneapolis came out strong for a number of progressive war measures, important among them being 'conscription of wealth as well as of men.' This is in direct line with the arguments which have been presented from time to time by the Courier-News and is only another indication that the campaign for an even distribution of the war burden is bearing fruit.

"It is argued that when the men of the nation chosen under the selective conscription plan of the government are taken to the front, they give all they have to give—their lives. It is no more than fair then, that the man who has been able to amass great riches in this country should give of what he has, his wealth, and the government should demand it if he is not willing to give of it freely. Many of the great fortunes in the United States have been the direct result of the war, and of these more than any other demands should be made.

"The American alliance also has a number of other ideas in the declaration of principles, including heavy taxes on incomes, excess profits and land values. It declares for equal suffrage and insurance for sailors and soldiers and demands that the government take quick action with regard to speculative interests which have taken the war as an excuse to enhance the prices of necessities.

"A committee was appointed to extend aid and encouragement to the new Russian republic and it is expected that they will go to Russia where they will be able to make an actual study of conditions and needs of the country.

"All through the meeting in Minneapolis was a strain of loyalty and in every utterance and action during the sessions there was indorsement of the government and an assurance of the loyalty of the laborers. It is only asked that the man who works with his hands be given a fair deal."

WANT MORE WAGES.

Beaver Falls, Pa., Sept. 15.—Realizing that they were not being paid a fair remuneration for their work, the members of the Cold Drawn Steel Workers' union here prepared a demand and presented it to the president of the Union Drawn Steel and the Standard Guage companies, asking a conference. The request of the men was totally ignored and the 900 members of the union ceased work. Both government and state mediators are endeavoring to reach an adjustment with the companies involved, but little progress has been made. An increase of eight cents an hour and a reduction of hours from 58 1-4 to 54 per week was demanded. The night turns work 11 and 12 hours.

WANT AGREEMENT KEPT.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 15.—Several hundred men in the Ashly shops of the Central railroad of New Jersey have voted to quit on September 15. The men recently formed a union, and after a strike of several days came to an agreement with the company. Since then, they allege, the company has violated its agreements and discharged 20 of the men who were active in the union movement.

The men also allege that many in their ranks have not received the increased wages provided for in the agreement.

WOMEN GET INCREASE.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 15.—Announcement is made that wage increases amounting to thousands of dollars daily were granted women workers by the action of the industrial welfare commission. Possibly every other state industry, excepting lumber and shipbuilding plants, will be affected by the order. All industrial plants employing women will be compelled to pay increased wages. Plants in which the apprenticeship period is now six months will have to pay full wages at the end of a three-months' period. Apprentices are to receive an increase of 33 1-3 per cent in wages.

CARMEN GET INCREASE.

Centralia, Wash., Sept. 15.—An increase of pay of 2 1-2 cents an hour for the street car employes in the employ of the North Coast Power company, which operates an interurban line between Centralia and Chehalis, became effective September 1.

ADOPTED WAGE SCALE.

Dallas, Tex., Sept. 15.—The Hod Carriers and Common Laborers' union of this city is putting in force a new scale which calls for 22 1-2 cents per hour for brick carriers and 25 cents for hod carriers.

HEALTHY GROWTH.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 15.—Announcement has just been made by the officials of the International Hod Carriers and Common Laborers' union that 35 new unions were added during the last quarter.

ASSUMES IT IS ABOVE THE LAW

Washington, Sept. 15.—The Post says: "Much is made of the loss of the Standard Oil steamer Campana, whose captain and gun crew were taken prisoner and are now in a German camp. There was no excuse for the attitude of the owners of that vessel. The company had been advised months ago to adopt protective measures. The vessel was pursued by a submarine for eight hours, during which time the Campana's gun crew fired all the ammunition, 180 shots, trying with a 3-inch gun to hit a submarine out of range and equipped with a 5-inch gun. If the Campana had had smoke boxes or bombs she might have escaped; or if she had been camouflaged for low visibility and had used anthracite she might not have been seen at all.

"The Campana is lost, and valuable naval gunners are prisoners for the remainder of the war, because of the refusal of the vessel's owner to incur expense and trouble. Is that a square deal to the United States? What about the national interest, the national necessity? The power to commandeer private property is a vitally important power, but the power to prevent private owners from destroying their property is not exercised.

"It is an utter absurdity to attempt to build ships faster than submarines can sink them, while permitting owners to sacrifice vessels and then collect insurance from the government. Ships now afloat are vastly more important for immediate plans than ships that have not been built. If a man's body can be conscripted and his fortune taxed, why is a man's ship allowed to sink with its cargo and its crew?

"The United States shipping board and the export license board can compel shipowners to adopt protective methods. Why is there any delay, in the face of abundant proof that the shipowners will not save their ships unless the government compels them to do so?"

CLOAK MAKERS WIN.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 15.—The cloakmakers' strike is settled, the operators and cutters obtaining an increase in wages and far better conditions. The International Ladies' Garment Workers union regards the victory as of considerable importance because it was the first break that they have been able to make in this city after years of effort.

The cutters who formerly earned $18 a week are now getting $24 owing to the fight the international put up.

In Toledo, Organizer Pierce obtained a 20 per cent increase and a minimum scale of $28 for cutters without a strike.

BUSINESS PROSPEROUS.

Washington, Sept. 15.—The prosperity of the banking business is evidently very good as the following statement proves: The comptroller of currency granted 24 charters for new national bands last month. The aggregate capital was $1,255,000, as compared with 16 charters, with a capital of $995,000, the previous year. Seventeen applications were made last month compared with 21 the previous year. Thirteen national banks increased their capital by $2,775,000, compared with six last year. No banks reduced their capital last month.

JOINT CELEBRATION.

Alexanderia, Minn., Sept. 15.—A monster Labor day celebration was held here, participated in by 5,000 farmers from five surrounding counties and the representatives of the labor unions, the first joint observance of the day ever indulged in in this section. Addresses were made by President A. C. Towney of the National nonpartizan league, and Lynn Thompson, a Minneapolis labor official. The nonpartizan league recently elected a congressman, defeating both old party candidates.

GET NAVY YARD RATES.

Boston, Sept. 15.—The machinists on strike at the Neponset yards of the George Lawley & Sons' shipbuilding corporation have returned to work, having been granted the navy yard rating of wages. A settlement was reached as result of a conference with Mr. Hawley, Federal Mediator David W. Benjamin, and a shop committee of the union.

LARGEST GUN FACTORY.

Washington, Sept. 15.—The most important local item carried in the great urgent deficiency bill is $7,500,000 for the enlargement of the gun factory at the Washington navy yard. When the plant is improved to the extent contemplated by this appropriation it will be the largest naval gun factory in the United States. The work is to be pushed with all possible speed.

ENDED BY MEDIATION.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 15.—Through the intercession of the state industrial commission the strike of the metal trades here has been settled, the men getting an advance of 25 cents a day and recognition of their unions. Hereafter, employers will treat directly with committees representing the unions.

ADMONISHED THAT THE LAW HAS TEETH

Washington, Sept. 15.—A warning to the coal men of the country, operators and dealers, was issued by Senator Pomerene of Ohio, following a conference with Dr. H. A. Garfield, fuel administrator. Senator Pomerene declared he had received intimations that some coal men were not obeying the law and furthermore had announced an intention not to do so. He said:

"If any of these operators feel that congress passed the law fixing the price of food and fuel as a bluff, or that the executive department was not serious when the prices were fixed, they had better accept a word of friendly admonition. Prices at the mines and to be charged by jobbers were effective as of the day they were set by the president, and prices to be charged by retailers will be fixed in the very near future, and delivery of coal will likewise be provided.

"The law has teeth in it." Severe penalties are provided for asking, demanding or receiving higher prices than those fixed, or for refusing to conform to regulations which the government may make."

YEARLY RAILROAD TOLL.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Ten thousand and one persons were killed in the United States in railroad accidents in 1916 and 196,722 were injured, according to figures covering the year made public by the interstate commerce commission. As usual, the greater number were trespassers on railroad property.

Passengers killed numbered 291; injured, 8,006; employes killed, 2,941; injured, 175,923; other persons, including trespassers, killed and injured number, 6,769 and 11,791 respectively. These figures show an increase over 1915 of 1,371 killed and 34,835 injured.

RESENT BAD TREATMENT.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 15.—Because of mistreatment by the forelady all the girls employed in the labeling department of the Southern Manufacturing company ceased work, demanding her discharge. The girls and women employed by the company are all members of local union 15258, American Federation of Labor. An effort is being made to bring about an adjustment of the differences, a representative of the department of labor at Washington having been requested to intercede to secure a settlement, as the girls are working on a rush order for the government.

BANNER MONTH.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Complete returns for June of the operations of all railroads of the country having an annual income of more than $1,000,000 show earnings greater than had been forecast and place June far ahead as the railroads' banner month.

Revenues totaled $349,739,626, as compaerd with $300,919,080 a year ago, and expenses aggregated $235,590,773, leaving net operating of $114,148,853, an increase of $10,350,000 over June, 1916. Operating income, after deducting taxes and uncollectible bills, totaled $97,516,514, as compared with $90,069,681 in June, 1916.

DEMAND AN INCREASE.

New Orleans, La., Sept. 115.—The Teamsters and Loaders' union, a negro organizaton, presented a demand to the employing draymen for an increase of 40 per cent in wages. Their demand being refused they struck, involving over 200 men. An adjustment has been reached and a new scale signed, giving the men $3.00; they had been receiving $2.50.

SHIP CARPENTERS OUT.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 15.—One hundred ship carpenters in the three largest ship yards are striking for higher wages. These men were engaged in erecting scaffolding and false work. Nearly all the wooden ship yards have signed the scale calling for increased wages. This strike is independent of the threatened trouble of the building trades with the independent yards working 10 hours.

COMPROMISE REACHED.

Denver, Col., Sept. 15.—The Packing House Employes' union demanded an advance of five cents an hour. A conference resulted and the representatives of the company offered a raise of two and one-half cents, which was accepted. More than 1,000 employes are benefited.

EVERY SHOP IN THE CITY.

Winnipeg, Canada, Sept. 15.—The local branch of the International Photo Engravers' union has succeeded in having every shop in the city sign up its new agreement, which provides for an increase in wages and better working conditions. All the boys are now vigorously pushing the use of the union label.

GET A NEW WAGE SCALE.

Wichita Falls, Kan., Sept. 15.—The Broom Makers union has signed up a scale with the employers which provides for an increase of [illegible] per cent.

ENFORCED LABOR.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 15.—The Los Angeles city officials and police court judges are alleged to have been arresting all unemployed men they could find and giving them the alternative of taking the places of the striking sugar beet field workers, jail sentences or six months on the rock pile. They asserted that that action was taken with the tacit knowledge of Governor Stephens and the state council of defense. The charge is emphatically denied by both parties.

According to reports, several hundred men already have been sent to the beet fields of Southern California when faced with the alternative of from one to six months on the rock pile or becoming strikebreakers. The striking beet field workers refuse to work under a contract labor system, according to a report to the state council of defense by Professor R. L. Adams, state farm labor agent, who investigated the strike.

"Several big sugar refineries," says Professor Adams, "in an endeavor to force the men to go back to work, without an increase of wages, have notified all sugar beet growers that they will refuse to buy their beets if any grant an increase in wages. The striking beet field workers demand $3 for a 10-hour day."

STRIKE TERMINATES.

Boston, Sept. 15.—The strike of more than 3,700 mechanics of the Boston & Main railroad has been ended as the result of a conference between the strikers' committee, representatives of the company and the members of the executive board of the Massachusetts committee on public safety. It was agreed that the men would accept an increase of five cents an hour and return to work. The additional three cents asked for will be a subject for further examination by Henry B. Endicott, executive manager of the public safety committee, who will act as the official and sole arbitrator. The demand of the strikers was a flat increase of eight cents an hour.

GET QUICK RESULTS.

Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 15.—The direct results of being organized was forcibly demonstrated at the power house of the Ohio Electric Railway company when the firemen and oilers demanded an advance in wages. They gave the superintendent of the company 15 minutes to grant their requests for a 10 per cent increase and the right to organize. He refused to act. The men walked out and tied up the traffic on the lines for several hours. When the concessions asked by the men was granted they returned to work. A few weeks previous a demand for a wage increase was made, but the superintendent, knowing the men were not organized, ignored the request and the men were compelled to return without securing any result.

WON IN FIVE HOURS.

Superior, Wis., Sejt. 15.—There was a short-lived strike at Great Northern ore docks, lasting just five hours. The men demanded an increase of 25 cents a day and notified the superintendent to that effect at 1 o'clock. He refused to accede to the request of the men. The men left the docks in a body. At 7 o'clock the demand had been granted and the night turn went to work. The new wage rate will be $4 for day men, $4.25 for night men and extra pay for Sundays and overtime.

ADVANCE GRANTED.

Youngstown, Ohio, Sept. 15.—A wage advance was conceded the members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin workers, by the Republic Iron and Steel company, as the result of the examination of the sales sheets of the Western Bar Iron association. The sales sheets showed an average price of $2.75, entitling puddlers to $13.30 a ton during September and October. The present price is $12.80. Bar mill men will also receive an advance of 5 per cent.

FAVOR COMMANDEERING.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 15.—The Seattle central labor council adopted resolutions petitioning the Washington congressional delegation to take up with government officials the propriety of the president commandeering all timber lands and mills. The resolutions, which are an outgrowth of the fight in western Washington lumber mills for an eight-hour day, also ask all labor and civic bodies in the west to help bring about such action by the president.

$2.50 PER WEEK MORE.

Denver, Col., Sept. 15.—Typographical union has secured a new job scale which carries with it an advance of $2.50 per week and continues for three years, dating from September 1. For day work $28.50 will be paid and $31.50 for night work. The state law which specifies that thirty days' notice shall be given the industrial commission before a demand for more wages can be made was totally ignored.

INCREASED 112 PER CENT.

Washington, September 15.—There were 81 pounds of sugar per capita in the home markets of the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30 last, as against 78 pounds in 1916, and 83 pounds the year before the war. The average price of the imported sugar, the bulk of which came from Cuba, was 6¼ cents a pound, an increase of 112 per cent in three years.

STRIKE AVERTED.

San Francisco, Sept. 15.—An arbitration agreement entered into between the Southern Pacific railroad and approximately 3,000 members of the four railroad brotherhoods has averted a threatened strike. A strike vote had been taken, and carried by a large majority. A government mediator was on the ground, but his services were not needed.

HONORED BY LABOR.

San Francisco, Sept. 15.—The members of the French high commission accepted the honor of being guests of the labor council at its regular meeting Thursday evening, September 6. The commission is headed by Edouard de Billy and is visiting the various large cities of the country previous to returning to France.

INCREASE OF $2 PER WEEK.

El Paso, Tex., Sept. 15.—The printers of this city have succeeded in securing a new scale, with arbitration agreements, by which they will receive an advance of $2 per week, including two months' back pay at new scale rate, the dispute having been pending for that time.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" PLAN URGED BY EMPLOYERS

Washington, Sept. 15.—Organized employers inform the council of national defense they are "interested in the abolishment of strikes," and suggest that their latest plan be submitted by the council to the trade union movement.

It is the old system—ask all and give nothing, with their pet scheme—compulsory arbitration—carefully kept in the background, for the time being.

The proposal was submitted to the council of national defense by a national industrial conference board of 150 members, representing 16 manufacturing associations.

The employers favor no modification of present safety or health standards during the war period except upon recommendation of the council of national defense. Wages shall be the standard prevailing locally at the beginning of the war except where it has been "demonstrated" that increases are necessary to meet higher living costs. This clause would indicate that some employers have their doubts about old General High Cost of Living.

Hours are not to be changed except on the word of the council of national defense when "it is necessary to meet the requirements of the government."

All union shop agitation is to be tabooed under the new system. The employers refer to the union shop as "closed shop."

A board consisting of representative employers, employes, and the government will be created and this board is "to be given sweeping authority: "With full power to create all machinery necessary to exercise its functions."

The employers say that trade unionists are not abiding by the recommendation of President Gompers, that unions shall not insist on changing labor conditions during the war, so they want action.

While President Gompers never made this statement, and has made repeated denials of this ridiculous claim, some employers persist in their contrary claims.

And in the meantime they are waiting for labor to accept salvation by the compulsory arbitration route.

ATTACK LABOR LAW.

Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 15.—A conference was held here with the purpose in view of attacking the Keating-Owen child labor law and securing a decision similar to that made by Judge Boyd. Counsel and cotton mill owners from practically every southern state were represented. It is alleged that the conference determined to enter probably 12 or 14 suits to test the constitutionality of the law in as many federal districts. If successful in their efforts, the cotton mill owners feel they can thus avoid compliance with the provisions of the law without awaiting a decision from the United States supreme court.

TELEGRAPHERS WIN.

Philadelphia, Sept. 15.—The Pennsylvania railroad and its telegraphers have reached an agreement on the wage dispute. A committee of the telegraphers, dispatchers, agents and signalmen, and J. C. Johnson, superintendent of the road, met and the dispute was adjusted. The men will receive a total increase of $144,000 per year on lines east of Pittsburgh. One additional relief day will be given to all operators now having only one relief day a month. The adjustments will become effective as of September 1.

AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS.

Portland, Oreg., Sept. 15.—Through the intercession of G. Y. Harry, government commissioner of labor, the threatened strike has been deferred in the shipyards here. The employers and employes have named representatives to proceed to Washington, where a conference has been arranged with the shipping board, at which time the matters in dispute will be taken up and an effort made to bring about a satisfactory adjustment.

TEN PER CENT ADVANCE.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 15.—An increase in wages, averaging 10 per cent was put into effect in the state printing office September 1. This advance, says State Printer Robert Telfer, will affect all the employes from linotype operators to janitors. The present wage will run as follows: Printers, $5; operators, $5.75 to $6.25; pressmen, $5; bookbinders, $5. The employes of the state printing office are also allowed 15 days' vacation on pay.

STRIKE TO CONTINUE.

Reading, Pa., Sept. 15.—By a unanimous vote the puddlers and finishers unanimously rejected an offer of the company of $10.50 a ton for puddling. They were getting $9.75 per ton and asked for $11.50. The puddlers have just been granted $12.30 per ton in the Pittsburgh district and the finishers 5 per cent, as the result of the inspection of the sales sheets of the Western Bar Iron association.

AN ADVANCE SECURED.

Regina, Sask., Sept. 15.—One of the best agreements secured by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in Canada during the present year is said to be the one in force here. The weekly minimum wage was advanced from $26.10 to $30.25 while the hours were reduced from 58 to 55, with improvements in working conditions.

NEW SHEET METAL UNION.

London, Ontario, Sept. 15.—A new union of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance has been formed, and strenuous efforts are being made to round up all the shops, with good indications of success. A new union will also be established in Brantford next week, a sufficient number of signatures having been secured for a charter.

STRIKE OF 2,000 MOLDERS.

Hamilton, Ohio, Sept. 15.—When an attempt was made to employ strikebreakers at the Niles Tool Works, where a strike of molders has been on for several weeks, 2,000 molders employed in a dozen different shops ceased work in sympathy.

WANT RECOGNITION.

Chicago, Sept. 15.—After several ineffectual attempts to secure agreements with the employers the jewelry workers ceased work. They are demanding recognition of their union and a wage increase of 15 per cent.

ASK MORE WAGES.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 15.—The printers have prepared a new scale to be presented to the publishers asking for an advance of 50 cents a day.